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LETTER

TO

Dr, JOHN FRIEND,

ON THE

Bill now depending,

FOR THE

Inspection of DRUGS and
MEDICINAL COMPOSITIONS in
Apothecaries, Chymists, and Drug-
gists Shops.

Sine me Liber ibis in Urbem.

L O N D O N :

Printed for A. MOORE near St. Paul's.
1724. (Price 4 d.)

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DR. JOHN FRIEND,

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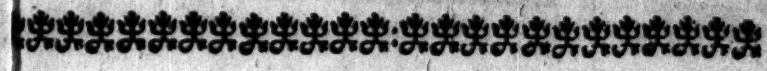
Intercession of Druggs and

Medicinal Compositions in
Hospitals, Churches and Dye-
shops.

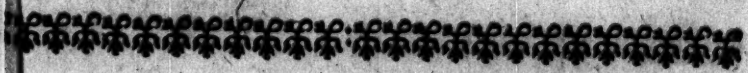
And also in the same

LONDON.

Printed by A. Woodcock, at the
(The ...)



A
LETTER
TO
Dr. JOHN FRIEND.



LETTER

TO

DR. JOHN FRIEND.

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to himself with great power
 and trust (as I suppose those of
 your profession will be
 many of your friends)

LETTER

TO
 Practising Physicians (Licensed by
 the College) and especially desired
 of Judgment in Compositions, and
 but mealy qualified for Genture
 in Simples. Your Compositions

Dr. JOHN FRIEND.

SIR,



THE Favour I would
 beg of you, and the
 Members of the Honour-
 able House of Com-
 mons, and the supreme Branches
 of our Legislative Power, is, that

you

you would well weigh and consider, the Capacity and Probity of those Persons, whom you intend to invest with so great a Power and Trust, (as I suppose those of your Profession aim at by this Bill;) for many by woful Experience are sensible, that many Practising Physicians (Licensed by the College) are entirely destitute of Judgment in Compositions, and but meanly qualified for Censure in Simples. Your Compositions contain so many Ingredients, (*viz. Venice-Treacle, Mithridate, Diascordium, &c.* with many others too tedious to enumerate) jumbled together, that the wisest Man on Earth cannot form a true Judgment

ment of them, unless you'll pretend to be inspired; which no Physicians or Divines claim. Thanks be to God, Reason has so gained the Ascendant; that no Priestcraft or Empiricism can defraud the Thinking Part of the World; because in all their Attempts, their forged Glosses and Pretences have betrayed them. Our own and foreign Universities supply us with daily Instances, sufficient to convince our Legislators, of several Physicians, who will not pretend to a tolerable Skill in Compositions of Medicines of any Kind. I will venture to say farther, that they have not Knowledge in Simples equal to many old Matrons, which

Knowledge the latter have acquired by the continual Use of them.

Physicians, indeed, must be allowed generally to understand Languages most, (though some Apothecaries and Chymists are not inferior to them.) But Inspectors taken from the latter, for Censurers in Simples and Compounds, are much more competent Judges than the whole collective Body of Physicians; though, as I have hinted, it's as impracticable to form a true Judgment of Compositions, as to establish Infallibility in the Church; which Power is espoused by none but such who would gull
and

(23)

and deceive the World: Which our *British* Parliament always abhorred, and doubtless will consider the ill Consequences, that may ensue the Establishment of such a Power in any Set of Men, where there is not a Probability nor Possibility of discharging themselves faithfully.

I will give the World two or three Specimens, to confirm my Assertions relating to Compositions, and those of Things most in Use. As for Example :

1st, Take white Pepper, one
Dram; black Pepper, two
Drams;

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Drams; Honey, one Ounce ;
mix together.

2^{dly}, Senna, two Drams, in fine
Powder; Cassia pulped, one
Dram; Coriander Seeds, one
Scruple; Syrup of Buckthorn,
as much as is sufficient to
make an Electuary.

3^{dly}, Take Mace in Powder, two
Drams; Cinnamon, one Dram,
also in Powder; *Fracastorius's*
Confection, without Honey,
half an Ounce; Syrup of
Quinces, as much as is suffi-
cient to make an Electuary.

If you should carry those Compositions, above mentioned, to any Physician or Apothecary, (not informing them what it is of your own Accord,) I believe you'll not find a Man upon Earth, who will be so vain as to pretend to tell you what exactly they are compounded of.

But if I were to add to each Composition forty, fifty, ninety, more particular Ingredients, I suppose it would not be difficult to perswade the World into my Opinion (unless it be such who are overwhelmed with Stupidity and Ignorance) that it remains inexplicable,

plicable, whether those Compositions are faithfully prepared or not, and is in Reality to be solved by none but the Compounders themselves.

As to Simples, I need no more than barely the Mentioning what occurs to all in their common Experiences, that those who betake themselves to particular Arts or Professions, and are assiduous, diligent, and well-skill'd in their Professions, must be deemed the best Judges thereof: so that Physicians, making no Pretence to the Art of compounding of Medicines, are entirely incapable of judging thereof. Therefore I think it may be justly said,

said, without any Wrong, Injury
 or Injustice done to the College of
 Physicians, that Apothecaries, Chy-
 mists, and Druggists, seem to be
 calculated and contrived by Art
 and Nature, the best, for the Exe-
 cution of such a Power, if our
 wise and prudent Legislators think
 fit to confer it on any incorporated
 Body of Men.

Left, these Things should be
 thought a Reflection, or Dimini-
 tion to the Characters of our true-
 ly great and learned Physicians, by
 any prejudiced Persons, and those
 more especially whose Interest
 attaches them to have such a
 Power vested in the College, I

(10)
freely and openly acknowledge,
according to my Sentiments, No
Apothecaries, Chymists, &c. are
so vain and ambitious as to vie
with Physicians in the Science of
Prescribing, which certainly is most
difficult to attain, and their only
Aim to acquire, (the other Branch
of compounding being beneath
their Cognizance, appertain to the
other Artists before-mentioned:)
But when Physicians, by Study and
indefatigable Observation in Prac-
tice, establish themselves in good
Judgment, doubtless in Physick, its
the most noble Endowment. It may
be indeed objected, that Surgeons,
Chymists, &c. do frequently exhi-
bit Physick to their Patients, with-
out

out Prescriptions of Physicians I should be glad, indeed, to confine the first to their ^{Κεῖν} and ^{ἑρῶν}, (which will explain itself to all our Representatives,) and make them answerable by Fines for all Fees received for Prescriptions, because it is a Prejudice to the whole Kingdom, assuming to themselves Capacities the most of them were never Master of. As to Chymists, their Title is entirely groundless for such Practice; but Apothecaries (who receive no Fees) frequently comply with such a Practice by Necessity; for the People will run a Risque in slight Diseases, rather than yield to a golden Idol.

I am loath to expatiate, or interrupt your Time from the Attendance of your Patients, and the Service of the most noble Assembly in the World; for so I think I may justly call them, because they are our Representatives, and Guardians of our Liberty and Property, and consent to enact no Law but what they are willing to be subject to themselves. I am afraid some warm and indiscreet Men may resent this, who want nothing more than Power to crush and abuse Mankind, and to speak it in Ecclesiastical Words, to domineer and lord it over God's Heritage, which I (charitably) take to be the whole Creation of human

man Kind; for if there be any Election and Rejection, we know it not, and its a Secret reserved in him that is omniscient, our Creator.

The World will imagine this Attempt, upon Examination, to be imprudent and impolitick, because all Requests, by Petition to Parliament, are always intended to carry with them the most convincing Reasons for a Grant: But on mature Deliberation, I believe it will not be thought sufficient to prevail; for demonstrative Proofs overthrow all Pretensions to the contrary. Our Administration has been always famed for its Caution in monopolizing

lizing Power to any Set of Men, dreading the fatal Consequences thereof, there being so many Records of abusing Powers vested in corporate Bodies, that it's sufficient to remind them of it.

I shall not trouble you with any more, knowing your Time precious, and have few Spare-hours from the Attendance requisite for your Patients; and what arises from your having the Honour of a Seat in Parliament; hoping when this is divulged to the World, some abler Pens will come to my Assistance, and set the Matter in a clearer Light, expecting you'll excuse this Freedom, and pardon me

(15)

me for my Endeavour, arising
only from a Zeal to publick Li-
berty and Property. And beg
Leave to subscribe my self

Your most Humble Servant,

J. D.

FINIS.



(12)

me for my Endeavour, arising
only from a Zeal to publish Li-
berty and Property. And beg
I leave to subscribe my self

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